

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: IS, PINT
SUBJECT: PUBLIC SPOTLIGHT ON DAYAN

REF: TEL AVIV 3752

BEGIN SUMMARY: YESTERDAY'S SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT
MOSHE DAYAN HAS AGREED "IN PRINCIPLE" TO SERVE AS FOREIGN
MINISTER IN A LIKUD GOVERNMENT HAS MET WITH STRONG
REACTIONS IN THE ISRAELI PRESS, WITH WIDESPREAD FEELINGS
OF AMBIVALENCE. END SUMMARY

1. FOLLOWING THE "DAYAN-TO-BE-FOREIGN MINISTER" ANNOUNCE-
MENT LATE MAY 25, ISRAELI REPORTERS AND WRITERS HAVE
PROMPTLY SEIZED UPON THE STORY AND AT WEEKEND IT DOMINATES
THE NEWS. WORTH NOTING IS A REPORT IN YEDYOT AHARONOT
MAY 26 (NAKDIMON AND TZIMUKI) CITING CLOSE ASSOCIATES
OF DAYAN ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO HIS DECISION.
IN THE COURSE OF LIKUD-DMC COALITION NEGOTIATIONS,
TWO CONDITIONS WERE CREATED WHICH HAD NOT EXISTED
WHEN DAYAN HIMSELF NEGOTIATED POSSIBLY JOINING THE
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LIKUD BEFORE THE ELECTIONS. THE FIRST WAS THE LIKUD'S
CONSENT NOT TO EXTEND ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY TO JUDEA
AND SAMARIA SO LONG AS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ARABS
CONTINUE IN GENEVA OR ELSEWHERE. THE SECOND WAS
THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE LIKUD NOW ACCEPTS SC RES-
OLUTIONS 242 AND 338 AND WOULD GO TO GENEVA. YEDYOT
DOES NOT REPORT ANY ELABORATION BY DAYAN'S ASSOCIATES

ON THESE POINTS.

2. WITH CHARISMATIC DAYAN IN THE NEWS AGAIN, EVERY EDITORIALIST HAS HIS SAY, AND MOST OF THEM ARE NEGATIVE ABOUT HIS PARTY-SWITCHING, HIS OPPORTUNISM, AND THE SHADOW OF THE YOM KIPPUR WAR IN WHICH HE APPEARS. THE JERUSALEM POST IS CAUSTIC IN ITS CHARACTERIZATION OF DAYAN'S LATEST ACT, CALLING IT "APOSTASY" AND "MOST UNSAVORY." IF PARTY AFFILIATION IS NOT A CATHOLIC MARRIAGE, SAYS THE POST, NEITHER IS IT A SUCCESSION OF ONE-NIGHT STANDS. DRAWING A CONCLUSION FROM BEGIN'S "CRUEL SNUB" OF THE DMC, THE POST URGES YADIN'S PARTY TO FORM A PACT WITH THE LABOR ALIGNMENT, RATHER THAN ACCEPT THE SUICIDAL TERMS OF BEGIN.

3. HAARETZ SAYS THAT DAYAN'S MANNER IN JOINING LIKUD CAN ONLY AROUSE REPUGNANCE, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND HE WILL NOT INCREASE THE HAWKISH IMAGE OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. NOR NEED HIS COPTION AS FOREIGN MINISTER PREVENT THE DMC FROM JOINING A GOVERNMENT COALITION AS AN EQUAL PARTNER.

4. ANGER, SHOCK, RESENTMENT, BUT NOT REGRET--THUS DAVAR, WHICH URGES THE LABOR PARTY TO USE DAYAN'S DEPARTURE TO HELP CLEAR THE AIR WITHIN THE PARTY AND TO FIRM UP ITS IDEOLOGICAL AND PERSONALITY SQUABBLES. DAYAN'S GOING MAY EVEN HELP LABOR TO RID ITSELF OF THE ONUS OF RESPONSIBILITY PLACED UPON IT FOR THE SHORTCOMINGS OF THE YOM KIPPUR WAR,
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ACCORDING TO DAVAR, WHICH ADDS THAT ISRAELIS MUST (NEVERTHELESS) WISH DAYAN SUCCESS SO LONG AS HE IS ENTRUSTED WITH THE COUNTRY'S FOREIGN RELATIONS.

5. MAARIV, NOTING THE PROFOUND CONSTERNATION DAYAN AND BEGIN HAVE CAUSED THROUGHOUT ISRAEL, FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO FAULT THE LIKUD FOR SEIZING A CHANCE TO UNDERMINE THE SOLIDARITY OF THE NEW OPPOSITION, BUT EXPRESSES A DISTINCT FEELING THAT "THE BEHAVIOR OF THE CANDIDATE FOR THIS POST (FOREIGN MINISTER) IS FLAWED." IT IS SHEER OPPORTUNISM THAT DAYAN HAS NOW TAKEN THE STEP WHICH HE WAS RELUCTANT TO TAKE ON ELECTION EVE. HE WILL (HOWEVER) BE A COLORFUL, UNCONVENTIONAL, EFFERVESCENT, AND INNOVATIVE FOREIGN MINISTER.

6. YEDIOT AHARONOT SAYS RATHER BRIEFLY AND CALMLY THAT BEGIN HAS BEEN DREAMING FOR YEARS--EVER SINCE ESHKOL WAS PRIME MINISTER--OF PERSUADING DAYAN TO

JOIN HIS CAMP. BEGIN'S DREAM-COME-TRUE WILL ENHANCE THE PRESTIGE OF HIS GOVERNMENT, WREAK HAVOC IN THE LABOR PARTY, AND SPEED UP THE DMC'S DECISION TO JOIN (OR NOT) THE GOVERNMENT COALITION.

7. HANNAH ZEMER OF DAVAR DEVOTES A LENGTHY COMMENTARY TO DAYAN'S LATEST MOVE, ONE WHICH SHE PREDICTED TO HER EDITORIAL COLLEAGUES TO THEIR DISBELIEF. THERE IS NOTHING TO BE SHOCKED AT, SHE SAYS, SINCE DAYAN AND MANY OTHERS OF HIS GENERATION, EX-MAPAI PARTY MEMBERS, DO NOT KNOW WHAT SOCIALISM IS, AND DO NOT KNOW WHAT IT IS TO HAVE AN IDEOLOGY. ISRAEL'S FOUNDING FATHERS HAD BOTH POWER AND IDEOLOGY, THEY TOO (LIKE DAYAN AND OTHERS) WROTE BOOKS, BUT NOT FOR DOLLARS ZMER THEN ZEROES IN ON DAYAN: HE IS NOT A STABLE MAN ("A FLAW OVER WHICH HE HAS NO CONTROL, AND FOR WHICH HE CANNOT BE REPROACHED"), AND HE IS STILL PURSUING UNCLASSIFIED

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PUBLIC REHABILITATION FOR HIS SHORTCOMINGS IN THE YOM KIPPUR WAR.

8. ZEMER ALSO PUTS DAYAN IN AN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE, AND THE RESULT IS WORTH QUOTING.
BEGIN TEXT

9. DESPITE HIS HAWKISH IMAGE, THE AMERICANS KNOW HIM FOR A MAN WHO FOLDS UNDER PRESSURE. FOR YEARS NOW THE THEORY HAS BEEN IN WASHINGTON THAT ONLY DAYAN CAN PERMIT HIMSELF THE LUXURY OF WITHDRAWAL. AT THAT TIME NO ONE GAVE THOUGHT TO BEGIN. THEY SAY IT NEEDED A NATIONALIST LIKE DE GAULLE TO GET THE FRENCH OUT OF ALGERIA, AND A REACTIONARY LIKE NIXON TO CLEANSE THE "UNTOUCHABLE" RED CHINA IN THE EYES OF AMERICA. THOSE WHO ARE OF THIS OPINION DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE PROFOUND DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE: THEY ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH JEWISH HISTORY AND THEREFORE CANNOT UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE MORE GROUNDS FOR COMPARING THIS TO THE GREAT UPRISING DURING THE TIMES OF THE ROMANS, WHICH LED TO DESTRUCTION AND RUIN, RATHER THAN TO FRANCE AND ALGERIA OF OUR TIME. END TEXT
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